

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /070 W

----- 042150

R 290311Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7085

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 2371

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS SHUM LA

SUBJECT: LPDR POLICY ON LAO WHO FLEE THE COUNTRY

REF VIENTIANE 2356

1. THE QUESTION AND ANSWER COLUMN WHICH APPEARS DAILY IN THE LAO PARTY "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" NEWSPAPER ON SEPTEMBER 27 CARRIED THE EDITORS' RESPONSE TO A "READER'S" QUESTION ON GOVERNMENT POLICY TOWARDS PERSONS SEEKING TO FLEE THE LPDR. THE EDITORS EXPLAIN:

2. "IF (AFTER RE-EDUCATION) ONE DOES NOT WISH TO CHANGE AND BECOME A GOOD CITIZEN, ONE ALWAYS HAS THE RIGHT TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THOSE WHO DO NOT LOVE THIS REPUBLIC, THIS DEMOCRATIC REGIME, BUT INSTEAD WANT TO GO TO LIVE UNDER A REGIME OF THIEVES AND HIPPIES ARE FREE TO LEAVE AND WE WILL NOT IMPEDE THEM. IF THEY REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY THEY ONLY CAUSE US SERIOUS

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PROBLEMS AND MAKE THEMSELVES A HEAVY BURDEN. IT IS USELESS TO

PUT THEM IN PRISON. WE ONLY PLACE IN PRISON SPIES AND THOSE
WHO INSTIGATE TROUBLE AND WHO WANT TO DESTROY THE SECURITY OF
THE REPUBLIC."

3. COMMENT: THIS "LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT" APPROACH MAY BE OFFICIAL
POLICY, BUT IS CLEARLY NOT OFFICIAL PRACTICE, AS INDICATED REFTTEL.
CORCORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL ASYLUM, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VIENTI02371
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760366-1090
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976095/aaaaadyy.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 VIENTIANE 2356
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LPDR POLICY ON LAO WHO FLEE THE COUNTRY
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, PFOR, LA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006